

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229141
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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 229141

EXDIS - FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IS, LE, SY, UN

SUBJECT:LEBANON SOUTH AND NORTH

REF: A) TEL AVIV 12041, B) JERUSALEM 2499, C) STATE 227867
D) STATE 228377

1. APPRECIATE YOUR INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP MEETING WITH
GAZIT TO TRY TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT WEIZMAN AND
MINISTRY HAVE THEIR ACT TOGETHER AS REGARDS UNIFIL MOVE-
MENT AND DEPLOYMENT. AT THIS POINT TWO FACTORS SEEM WORTH

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EMPHASIZING TO GAZIT SHOULD OCCASION SEEM APPROPRIATE.
FIRST, WHATEVER REALITY OF EXTENT OF INFLUENCE ISRAELIS
HOLD OVER HADDAD AND SHIDIAC, ONUS CLEARLY WILL FALL ON
ISRAEL IF UNIFIL MOVEMENT AND DEPLOYMENT CONTINUE TO BE
OBSTRUCTED AND UNIFIL'S FUTURE UNDERMINED AS A CONSEQUENCE.
SECOND, WE INCLINED TO VIEW THAT UNIFIL WILL DEAL ON PRAC-
TICAL BASIS WITH HADDAD AND COMPANY AS UNIFIL HAS SHOWN

ITSELF CONSISTENTLY READY TO DO SINCE ITS ARRIVAL. WITH THESE FACTORS IN MIND WE HOPE WEIZMAN ET AL CAN FIND SOME WAY TO PERSUADE HADDAD AND SHIDIAC TO COOPERATE WITH EFFORT TO REALIZE WEIZMAN'S AUGUST 30 ASSURANCES.

2. ON SITUATION IN NORTH, HOPE YOU CAN IMPRESS GAZIT THAT US REMAINS CONCERNED OVER DANGERS OF MAJOR CONFRONTATIONS. WE APPRECIATE THAT ISRAEL HAS ACTED WITH CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT IN FACE OF SOME TENSE SITUATIONS RECENTLY. YOU MIGHT TELL GAZIT WE HAVE MADE MAJOR AND RENEWED REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, AND THAT THE UK, FRANCE, AND FRG HAVE MADE SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS IN DAMASCUS. YOU MAY ALSO TELL GAZIT THAT WE HAVE ASKED FRG TO STRESS TO ASSAD DURING HIS BONN VISIT THE NEED FOR SERIOUS ACTION TO REVERSE PRESENT TREND IN LEBANON (REF C). WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN ALL APPROPRIATE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE SYRIA TO TAKE STEPS WHICH WOULD REVERSE THESE TRENDS.

3. WE EQUALLY TROUBLED BY NUMBER OF REPORTS FROM SOURCES (REF D) INDICATING THAT CHRISTIAN EXTREMISTS CONTEMPLATING LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IN HOPE OF DRAWING IN IDF. WE HOP- ISRAELIS UILL TAKE VERY CLOSE LOOK AT ANY PROVOCATIONS OR CLASHES THAT MAY OCCUR TO ENSURE THAT MARONITE MOUSETRAP IS NOT INVOLVED.

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CHRISTOPHER

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